



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

## QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT IS THE GENERAL CONDITION OF CROPS OVER THE STATE?
2. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED U. S. AND N. C. COTTON PRODUCTION THIS YEAR?
3. WHAT ARE U. S. TOTAL CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS THIS YEAR?
4. WHAT IS THE CURRENT ESTIMATE ON PRODUCTION OF CORN IN THE STATE?
5. IN WHICH SECTION OF THE STATE IS THE CORN CROP PARTICULARLY GOOD?
6. IS PEANUT PRODUCTION CURRENTLY ESTIMATED ABOVE LAST YEAR?
7. NAME THE PRINCIPAL FACTORS CAUSING A SHORT HONEY CROP.
8. DOES EGG PRODUCTION USUALLY DECREASE DURING THE FALL MONTHS?
9. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE FOR SOYBEANS?
10. WHO IS THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA?

No. 23

RALEIGH, N. C.

OCTOBER 15, 1948

## OCTOBER 15, 1948 FARM REPORT

## STATE CROP PROSPECTS GOOD

October 1 prospects in North Carolina continued favorable and above average production is indicated for most crops. Late September weather was on the wet side slowing down the harvest of fall maturing crops, the breaking of land and seeding of fall sown small grains. However, the delay in harvest has not created any general serious conditions yet and the plentiful supply of soil moisture should assure optimum conditions for seeding winter grains and cover crops.

Reports from Tar Heel corn producers on October 1 indicate an even larger corn crop than was earlier anticipated. Prospects as of this date point to a 78.5 million bushel crop 20 percent above the 1947 production and 55 percent above average. Increases in production estimates for types 12 and 13 tobacco raised the October 1 forecast of total flue-cured tobacco 2 percent during the month.

Prospective production of peanuts declined about 2 percent during the month, but even so the current indication is 6 percent larger than last year and 8 percent above average. Dry weather during the pegging period resulted in a light set of "second crop" nuts. Harvesting is well along in most important producing counties with probably 30 percent of the total crop in the stack.

October 1 prospects were for a cotton crop of 690,000 bales - about 50 percent larger than the 1947 crop and the largest crop harvested since 1944.

End of harvest reports on alfalfa hay showed slightly higher production than earlier forecast. Prospective final production of both pears and grapes were slightly higher, while reports from commercial apple growers indicated that the crop was turning out below earlier anticipations. Production of all remaining crops were unchanged from estimates a month earlier.

## COTTON PROSPECTS DOWN

North Carolina's cotton crop is now estimated to produce 690,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. Although this is 20,000 bales less than the outlook on September 1, it will be more than 50 percent larger than the 1947 crop of 452,000 bales, about 19 percent larger than the 10-year average of 582,000 bales and the largest crop harvested since the 1944 crop of 710,000 bales. An indicated record yield of 457 pounds tops that of last year by 122 pounds and is 102 pounds larger than the 10-year average.

Cotton is uniformly in good condition in almost all sections of the State. The crop attained excellent growth under favorable conditions and reached maturity considerably earlier than usual. Harvest progressed rapidly until about September 27 when picking was interrupted by more than a week of rainy weather. Ginnings as of October 1 amounted to 221,000 running bales. This indicates that nearly one-third of the entire state's crop had been ginned by that date or that harvest is more advanced than it has been in many years.

Cotton production for the United States was placed at 15,079,000 bales as of October 1.

## U. S. PRODUCTION SETS RECORD

Favorable to ideal condition during September for maturing and harvesting crops has practically assured realization of earlier prospects for unprecedented production in 1948. Currently, indications are that the total outturn of all crops will be 8 percent above the record set in 1946.

A record-breaking 3,568 million bushel corn crop is now safe from frost. In fact, a frost would be welcome in many areas to terminate growth and promote curing, so that picking may begin on a large scale. Other late growing crops, such as soybeans and buckwheat, also matured with only negligible frost damage and are now being harvested.

A few crops were adversely affected by September weather. Among these were cotton, as dry weather limited boll development; sugarcane, damaged in Florida by a tropical storm; and sorghum, reduced in yield by lack of rain in the Southwest. Peanuts did not set as many nuts as the growth of vines had indicated, but the crop is early and of fine quality. For other crops, changes from September 1 forecasts are relatively slight. The most significant are the increase in potatoes, resulting from a record yield of 198 bushels per acre; another boost in flaxseed of 6 percent; the recovery of the Southern rice crop; more hay, put up under ideal conditions; and more tobacco. Other changes include more barley, buckwheat, sugar beets, sweetpotatoes, pecans, and cranberries, but less spring wheat, oats, dry beans, hops, apples, peaches, pears and grapes.

Considering all these changes, aggregate production remained at 135 percent of the 1923-32 base. This is 9 points above the previous high mark of 1946. Record outturns are in sight for corn, soybeans, peanuts, pecans, and cranberries. Near record crops of wheat, oats, flaxseed, rice, sorghum grain, dry beans, and citrus fruits are in prospect.

INDICATED COTTON PROD. - OCTOBER 1, 1948

STATES	YIELD/ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1947	IND. 1948	1947	IND. 1948
	POUNDS		THOUS. BALES	
N. CAROLINA.	335	457	452	690
MISSOURI....	345	456	311	500
VIRGINIA....	369	400	18	20
S. CAROLINA.	297	387	651	940
GEORGIA....	246	286	651	780
FLORIDA....	213	258	11	14
TENNESSEE...	356	423	520	690
ALABAMA....	298	367	931	1,250
MISSISSIPPI.	320	430	1,569	2,300
ARKANSAS....	298	429	1,276	2,050
LOUISIANA...	292	373	505	725
OKLAHOMA....	141	163	330	350
TEXAS.....	198	173	3,437	3,250
NEW MEXICO..	570	550	179	245
ARIZONA....	497	543	234	310
CALIFORNIA..	693	567	772	950
ALL OTHER...	350	429	10	15
COTTON BELT.	267.3	310.3	11,857	15,079



## LAZY BEES

Current expectations point to a 1948 production of 4,114,000 pounds of honey by North Carolina's 187,000 colonies of bees, an average yield of 22 pounds per colony. Last year's total production was 6,228,000 pounds for an average of 36 pounds per colony. The unusually wet early spring followed by a dry summer were principal factors causing the short honey crop.

North Carolina producers had 453,000 pounds of honey on hand for sale on September 15 this year.

The 1948 honey crop for the United States is now estimated at 206,935,000 pounds - 9 percent less than last year's crop. Average production of honey per colony of 36.1 pounds compares with 38.6 pounds last year and the 1942-46 average of 38.2 pounds. The 1948 crop is being produced by about 5,726,000 colonies or 3 percent fewer than last year. In mid-September, producers had 97,641,000 pounds of honey on hand for sale, compared with 80,550,000 pounds a year earlier.

## HONEY PRODUCTION

	YEAR	N. C.	U. S.
COLONIES...	1947	173,000	5,916,000
OF BEES....	1948	187,000	5,726,000
LBS. PER...	1947	36	38.6
COLONY.....	1948	22	36.1
TOTAL LBS...	1947	6,228,000	228,582,000
PRODUCED...	1948	4,114,000	206,935,000

## SMALL GRAIN CROPS SHORT

**WHEAT:** Unfavorable weather during the seeding season reduced the wheat acreage generally and, in other instances, caused considerable variation in the seeding date of the crop. Some acreages produced good yields but the crop was spotted and a large portion of the late plantings never attained satisfactory development. The average yield per acre is estimated at 16 bushels compared with 17 bushels last year. Total production is estimated at approximately 7 million bushels compared with almost 8.5 million bushels in 1947.

**OATS:** An estimated 7.8 million bushels of oats has been harvested from 260,000 acres. Total production in 1947 amounted to 11.6 million bushels.

**BARLEY:** It is estimated that 634,000 bushels of barley were harvested this year. This compares with 980,000 bushels harvested in 1947. The estimated yield per acre in 1948 is 23.5 bushels as compared with 28 bushels per acre in 1947.

**RYE:** Production of rye is estimated at 300,000 bushels as compared with 336,000 bushels in 1947. The estimated average is 12 bushels per acre.

## FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION UP

Reports from North Carolina tobacco growers, together with warehouse sales data, indicate that 692 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco will be harvested in the State this year. This is 14 million pounds larger than the September 1 forecast and compares with the 891 million pounds produced in 1947 and the 10-year average of 644 million pounds.

There is no change in the estimated production in Middle and Old Belt counties during September and the crop is still indicated at 258,630,000 pounds. Yield per acre in these belts is estimated at 1,110 pounds which compares with 1,060 pounds for last year and a 10-year average of 928 pounds per acre.

Yield reports received from farmers as of October 1, together with advanced marketing data resulted in an increase of 10 million pounds for the eastern N. C. Belt, where the crop is now estimated at 345,450,000 pounds. This is 26 percent less than the 466 million pounds harvested last year but about 4 percent larger than the 10-year average for the belt of 331 million pounds. Yields in eastern belt counties are estimated at 1,175 pounds which compares with 1,205 pounds for last year and the 10-year average of 1,039 pounds per acre.

Marketing of the crop in Border Belt counties is rapidly nearing completion. Reports from growers as of October 1 on final yield, together with near complete marketing information, indicate that a crop of 88.2 million pounds will be harvested in the N. C. Border Belt this year. This is 4 million pounds larger than the September 1 forecast, 18 million less than the approximately 106 million pounds produced last year but still 11 million pounds above the 10-year average of 77 million pounds.

Reports from producers now indicate that a yield of 1,650 pounds per acre will be harvested in burley producing counties this year. This compares with the yield of 1,560 pounds for last year and the 10-year average of 1,181 pounds per acre. Production for this Belt is now estimated at 16.5 million pounds. This is about 1.5 million pounds larger than the crop harvested in 1947 and 5.8 million pounds above the 10-year average of 10.7 million pounds.

Total flue-cured production for the United States is now estimated at 1,032 million pounds, 20 million pounds more than on September 1, but 22 percent less than the 1,317 million pounds produced last year.

## CORN CROP GOOD

Generally, the corn crop is good over the entire State. The best development occurred in the mountain counties, which is particularly good, and in lower coastal counties where the crop is uniformly good except in some localized section. In most piedmont and upper coastal counties the crop is generally good, but there are some sections where the crop never fully recovered from extended dry weather in early summer.

Harvest is active in coastal areas and has begun on some individual farms in other sections of the state however, probably not more than one-fourth of the entire crop has been harvested. Harvesting operations were conducted under favorable conditions prior to September 27, but recent rains temporarily halted harvesting in all areas. In most parts of the State a good set of ears has developed well, and indicated yields are surprisingly good. The increased emphasis on hybrid seeds and better cultural practices has encouraged growers to pay more attention to their corn crops, especially in areas where it is steadily increasing as a cash crop. A few dryers are in operation in the State and growers in areas where dryers exist are taking full advantage of drying their corn.

As of October 1, the North Carolina corn crop was estimated at 78.5 million bushels on the basis of an estimated yield of 34 bushels per acre. If this estimate materializes, the current corn crop will exceed 1947 by at least 13 million bushels. It is estimated that the current U. S. corn crop will exceed 1947 by almost 50 percent.

## SWEETPOTATO CROP SHORT

Sweetpotatoes made good growth following rains in late August and generally the crop appears to have escaped any material damage from dry weather during the growing season. As of October 1, the yield per acre was estimated at 113 bushels compared with 115 bushels in 1947 and the 10-year average yield of 104 bushels. Total production is estimated at 6,780,000 bushels which is 580,000 bushels less than the total production in 1947.

*The United States feed supply situation for the 1948-49 feeding season is about the best in history. Record corn production is primarily responsible for the large feed concentrate supply, which is over one-fifth larger than in 1947-48.*



## FALL TRUCK CROPS

The acreage of "early fall snap beans" for harvest in North Carolina is estimated to be 15 percent larger than in 1947 - or around 1,000 acres this season compared with 900 acres last year. Based on October 1 conditions an average yield of 50 bushels per acre is now in prospect. Harvest in the Elizabeth City - Weeksville area is well advanced. Offerings of beans from this area during the latter half of September were of generally poor quality due to inadequate soil moisture. Harvest in Camden and Currituck counties began about October 4 and is expected to continue in good volume until late October. Recent rains have improved the prospects from late acreages in both areas.

North Carolina's "late fall cabbage" acreage, estimated at 2,500 acres, is 10 percent above that of 1947. Cutting of early varieties was expected to begin around October 11.

## PECAN CROP BETTER

The prospective pecan crop this year is considerably higher than in other recent years and points to a production of 2,752,000 pounds, comparing with last year's production of 2,040,000 pounds and a ten-year average production of 2,576,000 pounds. Condition of trees and damage from insects and pests vary widely over the state. Insects and pests have been largely responsible for unusually short crops during recent years.

## EGG PRODUCTION SEASONALLY LOW

Layers on farms in North Carolina produced 58 million eggs during September. This production compares with 67 million laid during the previous month and reflects the normal seasonal downward trend. The seasonal decrease, however, is somewhat less this year than during the same period in 1947. Close culling throughout the year apparently has helped to maintain a good condition among laying flocks. Eggs laid per bird during September averaged 9.06, comparing with 8.7 during the same month of last year.

During September, there were 6,352,000 layers on farms in the state, an increase of 7 percent over August. Last year, there were 6,775,000 layers on farms during September. Young flocks coming into production are responsible for the increased number of layers in September.

## MILK PRODUCTION SHOWS DECLINE

Following the usual seasonal trend downward September milk production in North Carolina dropped to 138 million pounds compared with 149 million for the previous month but was equal to production for September a year ago. Cows in herds on North Carolina farms totaled 355 thousand head - no changes from the previous month but slightly less than for September 1947. Production of milk per cow in herds for the month totaled 390 pounds - 29 pounds below the August production but slightly above the output per cow in September 1947. Slightly heavier feeding of grain concentrate feeds during the month held production to a high level in spite of the generally poor pasture conditions and resulted in a seasonal decline less sharp than usual.

## PEANUT PROSPECTS DECLINE

Production prospects for North Carolina peanuts declined by about 7 million pounds during September, and were indicated at slightly more than 330 million pounds on October 1. This is 6 percent larger than the 310 million pounds produced last year and 8 percent larger than the 10-year average.

Yields per acre are expected to average 1,075 pounds this year, compared with 1,030 pounds in 1947 and the 10-year average of 1,153 pounds per acre.

For the nation as a whole, a record peanut crop of 2,294 million pounds was forecast as of October 1. This compares with 2,188 million pounds last year and the previous record of 2,193 million pounds produced in 1942.

## COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER CONTINUES TO DECREASE

Meat production in commercial plants in the United States during July 1948 totaled 1,441 million pounds, 15 percent below July 1947. Production of all meat for the seven month period, January-July 1948, was 8 percent less than for the same

## SEPTEMBER WEATHER SUMMARY

September was a month of contrasts. During the first week temperatures were unusually low on two days. The third week of the month the pendulum swung the other way and the state experienced a heat wave of near record breaking proportions. The coastal plains and the piedmont had drouth during most of the month. When the rains came at the end of the month the rainfall amounts were heavy and sufficient to bring the total for the month to near or above normal. Fall planting was delayed in practically all sections because soils were too dry. Later on, delay in plowing was still necessary because the land was too wet.

## SOYBEANS UNCHANGED

Production prospects for soybeans were unchanged during September and based upon October 1 reports a crop of 3,878,000 bushels is still expected. This compares with 3,915,000 produced in 1947 and the 10-year average production of 2,333,000 bushels.

Good yields are expected in major producing areas and an average of 14.0 bushels per acre for the state as a whole. Although this is one bushel smaller than the 1947 yield it is 2.5 bushels larger than the 10-year average.

Prospects for a national record crop of soybeans were maintained during September. October 1 indications point to a production of 205,820,000 bushels for the nation as a whole. This is 13 percent larger than the 181 million bushels produced in 1947 and 53 percent above the 1937-46 average.

period last year. The estimated meat production includes beef, veal, lamb and mutton and pork slaughter.\*

Livestock slaughter for North Carolina during specified periods in 1947 and 1948 is shown in the table below.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER\*

TYPE	JULY				JANUARY - JULY TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
	HEAD		THOUS. POUNDS		HEAD		THOUS. POUNDS	
CATTLE.....	8,800	8,500	6,560	6,906	56,800	69,200	44,716	52,791
CALVES.....	12,000	11,400	2,218	1,908	70,500	83,100	11,481	12,254
SHEEP & LAMBS...	1,900	600	213	48	2,900	2,500	301	217
HOGS.....	22,000	22,000	6,028	4,620	181,000	202,000	40,405	43,882

\* Includes slaughter under Federal Inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter. Averages are based on unrounded numbers.



# FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

## NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES, ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1947 AND INDICATED 1948

CROPS	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	AVERAGE 1937-46	HARVESTED 1947	INDICATED 1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	INDICATED 1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	REVISED 1947	INDICATED 1948
- THOUSANDS -									
NORTH CAROLINA									
CORN, ALL.....BU.	2,334	2,138	2,309	21.8	30.5	34.0	50,787	65,209	78,506
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	460	497	432	14.3	17.0	16.0	6,567	8,449	6,912
OATS.....BU.	288	394	260	25.9	29.5	30.0	7,593	11,623	7,800
BARLEY.....BU.	28	35	27	23.0	28.0	23.5	665	980	634
RYE.....BU.	43	24	25	10.1	14.0	12.0	422	336	300
TORACCO, ALL.....LBS.	652.3	792.6	607	999.0	1,145.0	1,168.0	654,807	907,181	708,780
TYPE 11.....LBS.	251.9	302.0	233	928.0	1,060.0	1,110.0	235,771	320,120	258,630
TYPE 12.....LBS.	318.0	387.0	294	1,039.0	1,205.0	1,175.0	331,146	466,335	345,450
TYPE 13.....LBS.	73.6	94.0	70	1,044.0	1,125.0	1,260.0	77,160	105,750	88,200
ALL FLUE-CURED.....LBS.	643.5	783	597	1,002.0	1,139.0	1,160.0	644,276	892,205	692,280
TYPE 31.....LBS.	8.8	9.6	10	1,181.0	1,560.0	1,650.0	10,731	14,976	16,500
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	86	72	74	107.0	128.0	134.0	9,145	9,216 1/	9,916
SWEETPOTATOES.....BU.	75	64	60	104.0	115.0	113.0	7,823	7,360	6,780
SOYBEANS FOR BEANS.....BU.	203	261	277	11.5	15.0	14.0	2,333	3,915	3,878
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED.....LBS.	268	301	307	1,153.0	1,030.0	1,075.0	306,260	310,030	330,025
HAY, ALL.....TONS	1,199	1,225	1,226	.98	.99	1.00	1,176	1,207	1,226
ALFALFA.....TONS	9	19	28	2.00	2.35	2.30	19	45	64
LESPEDEZA.....TONS	407	530	477	1.09	1.05	1.10	445	556	525
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS	72	84	92	1.10	1.15	1.15	80	97	106
PASTURE.....	-	-	-	77 2/	82 2/	77 2/	-	-	-
PEACHES, ALL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,131	2,905	1,646
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,065	768	960
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	302	298	204
GRAPES.....TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.3	5.6	5.6
PECANS.....LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,576	2,040	2,752
UNITED STATES									
CORN, ALL.....BU.	89,616	83,981	85,497	31.4	28.6	41.7	2,813,529	2,400,952	3,567,955
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	58,832	74,186	71,502	16.1	18.4	18.0	942,623	1,364,919	1,283,770
OATS.....BU.	38,056	38,648	40,970	32.3	31.5	36.4	1,231,814	1,215,970	1,492,957
BARLEY.....BU.	12,615	10,947	12,177	23.7	25.5	26.1	298,811	279,182	317,240
RYE.....BU.	3,055	2,022	2,187	12.1	12.8	12.2	37,398	25,977	26,664
TORACCO, ALL.....LBS.	1,644.0	1,845.0	1,536.0	1,008.0	1,142.0	1,185.0	1,664,265	2,107,763	1,820,032
TORACCO, FLUE-CURED.....LBS.	954.7	1,161.2	888.5	985.0	1,135.0	1,162.0	944,809	1,317,466	1,032,387
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	2,826	2,112	2,109	139.3	182.0	198.4	392,143	384,407 1/	418,355
SWEETPOTATOES.....BU.	728	611	541	89.2	93.5	97.3	64,866	57,178	52,665
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....BU.	7,162	11,125	9,900	18.8	16.3	20.8	134,642	181,362	205,820
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED.....LBS.	2,531	3,389	3,340	708.0	646.0	687.0	1,750,718	2,187,985	2,293,985
HAY, ALL.....TONS	73,018	75,291	73,624	1.34	1.36	1.35	97,563	102,500	99,094
ALFALFA.....TONS	14,600	14,908	14,957	2.16	2.25	2.26	31,540	33,475	33,765
LESPEDEZA.....TONS	5,481	6,545	6,148	1.06	1.03	1.13	5,807	6,768	6,933
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS	21,062	23,402	22,356	1.35	1.39	1.32	28,617	32,569	29,503
PASTURE.....	-	-	-	75 2/	74 2/	72 2/	-	-	-
PEACHES, ALL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,725	82,603	67,467
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,058	113,041	96,319
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,222	35,312	26,358
GRAPES.....TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,701	3,072	2,956
PECANS.....TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,476	118,639	169,684

1/ Includes Government purchases from unharvested Acres.  
 2/ Condition - percent of normal on August 1